

I-5 – South 317th Street HOV Direct Access Project Update

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In this issue: Construction Update / Lane & Ramp Closures / S. 317th Bridge Girder Setting Thursday Night / Sound Transit and Metro Service Changes / Highway Advisory Radio Updates / Sign Up!

Construction Update

We'll be setting the girders for the new [S. 317th Street bridge](#) this Thursday night, Feb. 10 (see below for more information, or view our [fact page](#)).

Last week, crews installed [drainage](#) and backfilled behind the west bridge support and its adjacent walls. We're also still working on the retaining wall north of the median bridge support.

Also last week, crews were excavating along the southbound exit to S. 320th. This ramp was shifted to the left so we could build the retaining wall on the right. Now we're preparing to shift the ramp back toward the right. We're installing temporary light poles along the ramp and building a [retaining wall](#) to the left. We closed this exit last Wednesday night and installed permanent drainage pipes underneath the ramp.

At [Military Road](#), crews poured concrete for another one of the supports for the additional bridge width. We continued paving on the northbound I-5 shoulder.

Lane & Ramp Closures

Tonight (Feb. 8), we plan to close two northbound I-5 lanes near S. 320th Street. We'll close the first lane at 6 p.m. and the second at 7 p.m. Both lanes will reopen by 5 a.m. each morning. We've been paving the northbound shoulder to strengthen the pavement, and now we'll install guardrail.

On Thursday night, Feb. 10, we'll close the southbound exit to S. 320th at 10 p.m. to set the girders for the new S. 317th Street bridge. The same night, we'll close three lanes of southbound I-5 to replace an impact attenuator and install pylons at the point where the temporary roadway splits around the S. 320th median bridge support. The first lane will close at 7 p.m., the second at 9 p.m., and the third at 11 p.m., reducing southbound I-5 to one lane. All lanes and the S. 320th exit will reopen by 5 a.m. Friday, Feb. 11.

Single-lane closures continue Monday through Friday on Military Road between S. 304th Street and 31st Avenue S. between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. as we widen the I-5 bridge over Military Road.

S. 317th Bridge Girder Setting Thursday Night

This Thursday night, we'll reach a major milestone in the I-5 – S. 317th Street HOV Direct Access project: crews will set the girders for the new S. 317th bridge over the southbound I-5 lanes.

Concrete Technology Corporation fabricated the four 100-ton girders in Tacoma, about 10 miles down the road. Crews will deliver the 128-foot girders to the job site Thursday night.

Each girder will be delivered in two pieces, and a large crane will lift the girders into place. The girder pieces will rest on the bridge supports and a temporary shoring tower until crews connect the pieces through a method called "post-tensioning." We will do this once bridge construction is nearly complete.

Without the temporary roadway, it would have been necessary to completely close one direction of the freeway during the girder setting, as during the construction of the direct access interchanges in Bellevue and Lynnwood last year. Since we're already going to be out working Thursday night, we'll complete work that needs to be done on the temporary roadway as well. We'll need to close three southbound I-5 lanes for this work, but we'll be able to keep one southbound lane open all night.

Sound Transit and Metro Service Changes

This weekend, Sound Transit and Metro Transit will make their February service changes. The transit agencies make regularly scheduled service changes each February, June, and September.

You can visit [Sound Transit's Rider Alert page](#) for detailed information on their service changes that begin this Saturday (Feb. 12). Sound Transit Express Routes 564 and 565 (Auburn/Federal Way to Bellevue) will begin using the new direct access ramps at NE 6th Street in Bellevue. (These are the same kind of ramps we're building at S. 317th in Federal Way.) Routes 564 and 565 may run earlier than posted schedules due to the time savings resulting from the new ramps. The buses will no longer have to merge across four lanes of traffic to exit and enter the high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes.

For more information on Metro Transit's service changes that begin this Sunday (Feb. 13), visit [Metro's service change page](#).

Highway Advisory Radio Updates

Tune your radio to **AM 1520** to hear a new project update each week on I-5 in Federal Way. Questions or comments? E-mail Laura Johnson at JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov.

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